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(71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): RAMOT AT TEL-AVIV UNIVERSITY LTD [IL/IL]; 32 Haim Levanon Street, 69975 Tel Aviv (IL). YISSUM RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT COMPANY [IL/IL]; Hi Tech Park, Edmond Safra Campus, Givat Ram, 39135 Jerusalem (IL).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): BERCOVIER, Herve [IL/IL]; 30 Tiberias Street, 94543 Jerusalem (IL). BARENHOLZ, Ayelet [IL/IL]; Iceland 5/11, 96584 Jerusalem (IL). GERSHONI, Jonathan [IL/IL]; 28 HaNasi HaRishon Street, 76302 Rehovot (IL).

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(54) Title: PEPTIDE MIMOTOPES OF MYCOBACTERIAL MANNOSYLATED LIPOGLYCANS AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the identification of antigenic and immunogenic peptide-based mimicry of mannose-containing cell-wall compounds characterizing mycobacterial infectious agents, such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. Thus, the present invention provides amino acid molecules which are mimotopes of mannosylated lipoglycans, such as lipoarabinomannan (ManLAM), comprising at least one of the following characteristics: (a) being capable of binding to ManLAM binding antibodies; (b) being capable of eliciting production of ManLAM binding antibodies. The amino acid of the invention is used in a diagnostic method for diagnosing mycobacterial infections and in a method of vaccinating subject against such infections. Accordingly, the invention also provides a diagnostic kit and a vaccine for the executing the aforementioned methods.

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